GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:47
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2016
FDI in FM Radio
Khadse Smt. Raksha Nikhil;Nagar Shri Rodmal

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for electronic and print media industry, segment-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to enhance FDI cap in FM radio sector and television news channels and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government for the upgradation of infrastructure in FM sector in the country; and

(d) whether the private FM channels have not been permitted to broadcast news under the existing FM radio policy guidelines and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE ; MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

(a) to (d) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*47 FOR ANSWER ON 26.02.2016

(a) & (b) As per Press Note No. 12 (2015 Series) dated 24.11.2015 issued by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), permitted limit of FDI in electronic media is as below:

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Sector / Activity Foreign Investment Cap Entry Route
6.2.7.1.1
(1) Teleport (Setting up of up-linking HUBs/Teleports);
(2) Direct to Home (DTH);
(3) Cable Network (Multi System Operators (MSOs) operating at National or State or District level and undertaking up-gradation of network towards digitization and addressability);
(4) Mobile TV;
(5) Headend-in-the-Sky Broadcasting Services (HITS) 100% Automatic up to 49% Government route beyond 49%
6.2.7.1.2
Cable Networks (Other MSOs not undertaking up-gradation of network towards digitalization and addressability and Local Cable Operator (LCOs)
100% Automatic up to 49% Government route beyond 49%
6.2.7.2.1
Terrestrial Broadcasting FM (FM Radio), subject to such terms and conditions, as specified from time to time, by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, for grant of permission for setting up of FM Radio Stations. 49% Government
6.2.7.2.2
Up-linking of 'News & Current Affairs' TV Channels, 49% Government
6.2.7.2.3
Up-linking of 'Non-News & Current Affairs' TV Channels, Down-linking of TV Channels 100% Automatic

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As per the existing print media policy, foreign investment upto 100% is allowed in the non-news, i.e. specialty/technical/scientific sector of the print media whereas foreign investment upto 26% is allowed in the Indian entities publishing Indian edition of foreign magazines dealing with news and current affairs. Foreign investment upto 26% is allowed in the Indian entities publishing newspapers, periodicals and facsimile edition of foreign newspaper dealing with news and current affairs. However, foreign investment upto 100% is allowed in case of foreign publishing houses bringing out facsimile edition of their own newspapers through wholly owned Indian subsidiary

(c) As far as All India Radio is concerned, 411 nos. of FM transmitters are functional at 382 locations in the country including 194 nos.

of 100 W FM transmitters and AIR FM coverage is about 34 % of the area and about 47 % of the total population of the country. For further upgradation of infrastructure in FM service of AIR, following schemes are being taken up by AIR under 12th Plan :
1. Setting up of new 132 FM transmitters under 12th Plan including continuing schemes of earlier plans (Annexure- I).
2. Upgradation of 52 outlived existing FM transmitters by higher power FM transmitters (Annexure- II).
3. Replacement of 25 outlived existing FM transmitters by FM transmitters (Annexure- III).
Replacement / upgradation of 06 nos. of outlived existing 1 kW MW by 1/10 kW FM transmitters (Annexure- IV).
(d) Under the FM Radio Phase-III policy guidelines, permission holders shall be permitted to carry the news bulletins of All India Radio in exactly same format, on such terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed with Prasar Bharati. No other news and current affairs programs are permitted under the FM Radio Phase-III policy. However, broadcast pertaining to following categories will be treated as non-news and current affairs broadcast and will therefore be permissible:

(i) Information pertaining to sporting events excluding live coverage. However live commentaries of sporting events of local nature may be permissible;
(ii) Information pertaining to Traffic and Weather;
(iii) Information pertaining to and coverage of cultural events, festivals;
(iv) Coverage of topics pertaining to examinations, results, admissions, career counselling;
(v) Availability of employment opportunities;
(vi) Public announcements pertaining to civic amenities like electricity, water supply, natural calamities, health alerts etc. as provided by the local administration;
(vii) Such other categories not permitted at present, that may subsequently be specifically permitted by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting from time to time.